



News Release

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Workers at Huntington's Hayes Lemmerz International eligible for federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS (June 23, 2006) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Huntington's Hayes Lemmerz International are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country.

In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with the Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released. A company official filed a petition on behalf of the workers on February 21, 2006.

The Department of Labor investigation revealed that employment, sales, and production at the subject firm declined from 2004 through 2005. The Department surveyed the subject firm's major declining customers regarding purchases of cast aluminum wheels in 2004 and 2005. The survey revealed that customers increased import purchases while reducing purchases from the Huntington Hayes Lemmerz plant. Consequently, workers at the Huntington plant qualified for TAA benefits and the findings were certified on March 16, 2006. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after February 17, 2005 through March 16, 2008 is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at the Huntington Hayes Lemmerz facility. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Eligible parties may contact the Fort Wayne WorkOne at (260) 745-3555, or any WorkOne Center for more information.

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